



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

## **MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, James Gage, Robert Zielfelder, Jr., Sean Dwyer (arrived 7:20 PM) and Alternate Ann Harford

**ABSENT:** Regular Member George Nickerson and Alternate Walter Moody

**STAFF:** Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Acting Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (On Non-Agenda Items): None

## **III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

### **1. Discussion - Energize Connecticut Initiative: Dave Bidwell/Staff – Leads**

Commissioner Bidwell explained that he, Chairman Quarno, and Town Planner Lisa Houlihan manned a booth at the Ellington Farmers' Market with Alison Jackman, Eversource, on September 17, 2016. As patrons visited the booth information was shared with them about the benefits of Home Energy Solutions (HES). Ms. Houlihan reported that six (6) Ellington residents and one (1) Coventry resident signed up.

Commissioner Quarno asked if there was a way to track the number of audits conducted and the donations made to the Ellington Fuel Bank. Ms. Houlihan will ask Eversource if the Town can receive monthly activity reports.

The next Ellington Events Magazine will be mailed in November. The Commission supported posting another article about HES in the next Ellington Events.

The Commission discussed additional ways to advertise HES. Noting that First Selectman Spielman signed up for a HES, Commissioner Quarno suggested seeking a testimonial from her. First Selectman Spielman may participate in a Lead by Example event which will be videoed and shared via social media. Commissioner Bidwell suggested posting activity reports on the Commission's webpage, as well as information about Bright Idea Grants. The Commission asked if partnering contractors could attend upcoming Farmers' Markets.

### **2. Update – Hockanum River Trail Association: Ann Harford – Lead**

Commissioner Harford explained the ongoing maintenance along the Hockanum River Trails. A few more residents are helping with trail maintenance. The new fields on Pinney Street include a walking path and have been connected to the Windermere Trail. Park & Rec is helping garner more volunteers to help with various trail projects.

Eagle Scout candidate, Jordan Reed, is almost complete with the trail kiosk at the Batz property. Jordan will include a write-up about the history of the property in the kiosk.

Ms. Houlihan circulated copies of progress maps for West Road Trails, Batz Trails, and Windermere Trails. Volunteers Bruce Dinnie, retired Vernon Park & Rec Director, and George Arthur are helping extensively with trails. Mr. Dinnie is focusing on establishing trails on the Batz property and Mr. Arthur is helping with mapping.

Ms. Houlihan reported that she attended a Men's Club meeting on September 7, 2016 with Mr. Dinnie, First Selectman Spielman, and Ellington Park & Rec Director Robert Tedford. Club members are interested in plans for town center trails. Ms. Houlihan circulated a draft map showing a trail network connecting Main and Maple Streets.

Commissioner Harford, Ms. Houlihan, Mr. Arthur, and Mr. Dinnie met today to review progress maps. Waypoints will be added to GIS mapping and will include parking, bridges and boardwalks, steps, kiosks, restrooms, benches, and scenic viewpoints.

### **3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: James Gage/Staff - Leads**

There is no new status on the applications pending farmland preservation.

Ms. Houlihan received a list from the Town Assessor showing properties in Ellington with 3 plus acres. The list includes almost 840 records and needs to be scrubbed to remove parcels that do not meet preservation priorities. Commissioner Gage compiled a list of known priority parcels based on firsthand knowledge and by utilizing MapGeo.

The Department of Agriculture recently announced the availability of Farm Viability Grants. A grant is desired so that a Cost of Community Services Study can be conducted. Grant applications will be accepted November 7<sup>th</sup> - November 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Gage will assist in drafting the grant application.

### **4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: James Gage – Lead NO MOTIONS**

## **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

### **1. FY 16-17 Budget Expenditure Update: Staff – Lead.**

Staff reported monthly activity.

### **2. Approval of the September 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

**MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED (DWYER ABSTAINED) TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

### **3. Correspondence: None**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:37 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Houlihan, Acting Recording Clerk